

**Arizona Department of Health Services
Tribal Leaders Roundtable/Summit Update Report
12-13-07**

Office of the Director

Under the leadership of Director Susan Gerard, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) continues to strengthen its relationships with Arizona's Native American communities. The Department is supporting and expanding critical programs serving Arizona tribes, developing intergovernmental agreements specific to local tribal communities, and bringing together tribal leaders and resources to address priority tribal health concerns. The following report reflects the funding and successful implementation of efforts to assist Native Americans across Arizona.

Native American Liaison

Michael Allison, Native American Liaison, continued building an active relationship with the Native American health care community to enhance overall working relationships and service delivery. The following highlights significant meetings and events conducted by Michael during this reporting period.

Program Coordination and Outreach: At the request of the Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care (AACOIHC) coordinated an AACOIHC meeting at ADHS with ADHS being the primary presenter. Director Susan Gerard and key ADHS staff provided the presentation.

Coordinated Tohono O'odham representatives participation in a US Mexico Border Health Commission Tuberculosis Legal Forum meeting held at ADHS on 10/03/07. Representatives from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and federal agencies attended the meeting.

Coordinated four Tribal Bio-Terrorism Collaborative (TBTC) Team meetings resulting in tribal input into the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 2007-08 emergency preparedness and pandemic influenza III funding and allowed the team to discuss plans to ensure the expenditures of unspent funds.

At the request of the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services (NNDSS) coordinated a meeting between, NNDSS, two Navajo Chapter Assisted Living projects (Whipporwill and Chinle), ADHS-DLS, and AHCCCS representatives to discuss project development coordination and Medicaid reimbursement requirements.

Worked with two tribes and the ADHS Bureau of Emergency Medical Services personnel in coordinating efforts to respond to the tribe' request for state

certification of their EMS training programs. A tribal prepared draft Tribal/State MOU is being reviewed by ADHS.

Along with other State Tribal/Native American Liaisons attended and provided a brief presentation on 11/19/07 to the Navajo Tribal Council during their State Legislative Strategic Planning Session held in Window Rock.

Community Education and Training: Chaired three Governing Board meetings as the Board Chairperson of the Pathways into Health (PIH) organization, a national collaborative partnership formed to promote the education and graduation of Native Americans from all health field professions. Attended the PIH National Conference held in Chicago, Illinois.

Worked collaboratively with multi state/federal agencies partners in the sponsorship of a American Indian basic grant writing workshop held in Tucson on 10/18-19/07. This workshop was the second of a series of three workshops to be sponsored for Arizona tribal communities. The next workshop will be held on the Navajo reservation in 2008.

Inter Agency Coordination and Collaboration: At the request of the Governor's Office coordinated, with assistance from the Department of Commerce Tribal Liaison, the November meeting of the State Tribal/Native American Liaisons.

Worked in partnership with the Tribal Liaisons from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) in planning and sponsorship of the first Annual Tri-Agency Tribal Consultation Session held on 11-30-07 at the Governor's Executive Tower. The Session was held and conducted similar in structure to the federal agency's Tribal Consultation Sessions. Directors Gerard, Rodgers, and Wareing attended and gave presentations.

Division of Behavioral Health Services

The Division of Behavioral Health Services maintains Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) to provide mental health and substance abuse services to tribes across Arizona. Regions are managed by Regional and Tribal Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs and TRBHAs), who are responsible for planning, managing and/or delivering mental health and substance abuse services.

The Division has a wide range of initiatives aimed at supporting Arizona's Native American communities, including:

State Infrastructure Grant Funds (SIG)

Grant funds are targeted to address: creating and sustaining trusting partnerships with families, and other child serving systems; workforce development through expanded training and coaching; community infrastructure development for child and family serving agencies including barrier identification and resolution; and improvements to overall quality management to ensure sustainability of the statewide system reform.

An additional tribal project funded this reporting period was the TeenScreen Program, a program in which adolescents are screened for depression and suicide. Youth who are identified as at risk for depression and suicide receive referrals to treatment services. Over the past quarter, four tribes participated in training on the implementation of TeenScreen. Two tribes have begun screening youths and a third will begin in the next few months.

Prevention Services

Throughout 2007, Cenpatico Behavioral Health of Arizona worked closely with the Ak-Chin Indian Community to establish a prevention program. A contractor commenced delivery of youth leadership development and suicide prevention services which will continue through the coming year.

Gila River Indian Community continues to implement comprehensive substance abuse and suicide prevention efforts. Gila River Regional Behavioral Health Authority (GRRBHA) offered Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) for community members. Additionally GRRBHA staff co-trained on ASIST with trainers from the White Mountain Apache Tribe. A GRIC coalition has been strategic planning for substance abuse prevention services. Future preventative services will be based on this plan.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) will receive funds for substance abuse prevention services commencing in January, 2008. ADHS will be working with WMAT to develop a plan for utilization of these funds.

The Pascua Yaqui Centered Spirit Program continues to implement community based substance abuse prevention services. They have established a community coalition and sponsored a clean up day. This program sent several staff members to the 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Conference.

The San Carlos Apache Tribe has received a small mini grant from Cenpatico to expand their suicide prevention efforts. San Carlos sent several staff persons to the 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Conference.

Several staff from Tohono O'odham Behavioral Health Services attended the 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Conference in Tucson in October, 2007.

Magellan is planning the development of new prevention services targeting the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Tribe and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for 2008.

NARBHA implemented their annual Embrace Life summit targeting northern Native American Nations.

The Second Annual Suicide Prevention Conference was held in Tucson in October. The conference included workshops on tribal suicide prevention efforts across the Nation and successful partnerships between tribal governments and non tribal governments for suicide prevention as well as other topics.

Arizona State Hospital

Between July 1, 2007 and September 30, 2007 there were four (4) Tribal patients admitted and a total of twelve(12) patients treated at Arizona State Hospital from Arizona tribal communities. Ten are male and two are female. Six (6) of the patients are adults treated under civil court order treatment in the civil hospital, one (1) is an adolescent and two (2) adults are in the Forensic Hospital as “Guilty Except Insane” (GEI). Arizona State Hospital continues to work closely with the tribal communities for timely admissions of tribal members referred for care and treatment.

Division of Public Health Services

The Division continues to play a key role in supporting public health services to tribes across Arizona. Following are tribal activities from Bureaus and Offices:

Bureau of Women’s and Children’s Health (BW&CH)

The BW&CH applied for a State Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Grant through the US HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Center for Excellence. The project will involve two Health Start contractor sites that serve Native American tribes. The two sites are the Native American Community Health Center in Phoenix and Northland Community Health Center in Flagstaff. If funded, the project will provide training and support to the two sites to integrate FASD prevention, screening diagnosis and intervention into their existing Health Start programs that reach urban and rural Native American women in Maricopa and Coconino Counties. The announcement of the grant awards will be in February, 2008 for an initial planning period and four option years.

The BW&CH is working on follow up with the Tohono O’odham Nation on a Community Health Grant with the goal of encouraging the tribe to sign the Inter-governmental Agreement on or before 12/31/07

Bureau of Tobacco Education and Prevention (BTE&P)

The BTE&P is working with 9 Tribal Nations, 3 Urban Indian Health Centers, and the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) to deliver tobacco education and prevention services targeting American Indians in Arizona. These tribes and Urban Indian Health programs are:

- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Gila River Indian Community
- Hopi Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Kaibab Paiute Tribe
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC)
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Yavapai Apache Nation
- Native Americans for Community Action (Flagstaff Urban)
- Native Health (Phoenix Urban)
- Tucson Indian Center (Tucson Urban)

All of the programs provide services to their individual communities, based on those specific needs related to tobacco. The individual tribes provide services on the reservation, while the Urban Centers target American Indians living in the three major cities in Arizona (Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff). A great deal of work has taken place within the tribal communities relating to tobacco education and prevention services. Some highlights include:

- Implementation of the “Get Real About Tobacco” curriculum at the SRP-MIC elementary and high schools.
- Kaibab Paiute Tribe hosted their first smoke-free pow-wow in August.
- Native Health conducted outreach efforts to their WIC program participants.
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe tobacco program is currently working on a smoke-free policy for tribal buildings.

In late August, the BTE&P began the “Walk the Walk Tour” which is a concerted effort to get input from community partners and stakeholders throughout the state regarding tobacco control priorities for Arizona for the next three to five years. Of the thirty-five community forums held, three forums were held in tribal communities and three forums with American Indian organizations. A total of seventy-nine individuals participated in these forums. Based on the preliminary data captured in the forums, some areas of concern directly impacting tribal communities were: collaboration with Native American groups needed at the local, county, and state levels; awareness of the unique characteristics of the differing tribal cultures; and the preservation of traditional and ceremonial uses of tobacco. The BTE&P Strategic Planning Work Group will be utilizing information from the community forums as one of the sources for the development a draft strategic plan.

Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response (BEP&R)

The BEP&R conducted monthly tribal conference calls. Participation included Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinators, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Indian Health Service and Bureau staff. Items discussed were current Tribal program activities, updates and assistance in regards to the CDC Cooperative Agreement and Pandemic Influenza Phase III grant and deliverables. Below is a brief sample of these deliverables:

- Participation in the Public Health Preparedness Region Committee
- Participation in the monthly Tribal conference calls
- Submittal of a Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
- Compliance with National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Identification or establishment of a Tribal Volunteer group
- Participation in ADHS/Statewide exercises pertaining to public health and or Strategic National Stockpile/Receiving, Storage & Shipping (SNS/RSS)
- Provide outreach and education to community and attend trainings that would benefit the Tribal Public Health Program.

Five site visits were conducted to the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Gila River Indian Community, the Navajo Nation, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, and the San Carlos Apache Tribe. During these site visits, the ADHS Tribal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator provided an overview of grant deliverables, provided technical assistance, and met with additional Tribal public health, government, finance, and administration staff.

The Tribal Bio-terrorism Collaborative Team met on September 24, October 1st and 9th and November 27, 2007. Team meetings were called to reach concurrence on the CDC Cooperative Agreement grant application for FY07-08, the grant priority projects and finalizing the Tribal grant deliverables.

Other notable joint BEP&R and Tribal Governments activities included:

- BEP&R recipient of the Tucson Area IHS 2007 Merit Award for support and participation in the Tucson IHS 2006 Mass Vaccination Exercise.
- Providing updates and guidance to the Arizona Local Public Health Emergency Response Association (ALPHERA) on tribal activities.
- Planning and participation as an evaluator support for the Navajo Area IHS Mass Vaccination Exercise on November 29, 2007.
- Planning support and commitment to provide observer/evaluator support for the Phoenix Area Mass Vaccination Exercise scheduled for 12/05/07 at

Office of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis C Services

For a major portion of 2007, the STD Control Program has prioritized efforts at addressing increased syphilis cases among several Arizona tribal nations. At the same time, the STD Control Program continues to monitor and address the significant morbidity of STDs among Native Americans statewide. The following assistance was provided to the Tohono O'odham Nation and Gila River Indian Community.

Tohono O'odham Nation: The STD Control Program assigned the senior public health advisor to the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON) three days a week. He reviews cases, provides training to TON Community Health Representatives (CHRs) and Indian Health Service (IHS) Public Health Nurses, assists with surveillance, and provides technical assistance to the TON with efforts at establishing an STD program

The ADHS STD Control Program Communicable Disease Investigator (CDI) assists with case investigation and partner elicitation three days a week. The STD Control Program provided the TON School Board with a general STD education presentation in September. ADHS staff assisted IHS and the TON with school based STD screenings at three high schools, one middle school, and two community events. Several positive syphilis cases were found as well as significant numbers of positive chlamydia and gonorrhea cases. ADHS staff provided updates to the TON Legislative Council in September and November. The STD Control Program sponsored a California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center training entitled *Partner Services in the Clinical Setting* that was held in Sells, AZ on 11/14-15/07. STD Control Program has partnered with the ADHS Bureau of Women's and Children's Health to expand STD prevention and education through ITCA for the TON.

Gila River Indian Community: IHS public health nurses from Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) attended the 11/14-15/07 Sells training. The STD control program convened a meeting with the GRIC Health Resources Division, Maricopa County STD Program, and the GIRC Health Care Corporation to address increased cases on the GIRC. The STD Control Program offered assistance with case investigation training, case management and investigation, and clinical education. STD Control Program met with Intertribal Council of Arizona and Phoenix Area Indian Health Service to discuss the increased cases of syphilis. STD Control Program assists with case review, surveillance, and has provided two clinical STD education sessions for hospital staff. STD Control Program has partnered with the ADHS Bureau of Women's and Children's Health to expand STD prevention and education through ITCA for the GRIC.